DC Department of Health's Ongoing Anacostia River Restoration Efforts

Under the Anthony Williams' mayoral administration, a renewed sense of stewardship in the District's environment has spurred restoration efforts on the Anacostia River. Numerous efforts by various federal, local, and community organizations are currently underway toward the restoration of the Anacostia River and its tributaries. The administration has dedicated a total of $5 million dollars toward habitat restoration and water quality improvements. These funds are being used by the Department of Health, Environmental Health Administration, Bureau of Environmental Quality, Watershed Protection Division (EHA) to implement restoration projects throughout the Anacostia watershed. Thus far, EHA has been successful in leveraging over 7 million federal dollars to achieve its restoration goals. Key partners include: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Baltimore District (USACE), National Park Service (NPS), National Resource Conservation Service (NRCS), U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA), and U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS). The following is a brief summary and the status of each project currently planned for implementation by the EHA.

Kingman Lake (1)

The goal of this project was to restore over 40 acres of freshwater tidal wetlands in the Kingman Lake area in order to increase plant and animal diversity and improve the filtering capacity of the Anacostia. This project was completed in 2000. Monitoring efforts are continuing in connection with other wetlands that have been restored in Kenilworth Park. Funding for this project was cost shared by the USACE and USEPA.

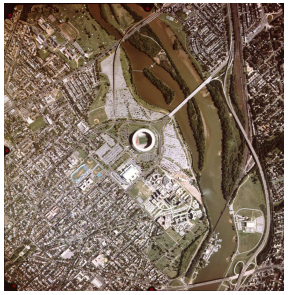
Kingman Island (3 & 4)

The goal of this project is to restore the southern half of the island as a natural recreational area. Habitat restoration efforts will focus on enhancement of vernal pool habitat on Heritage Island, the creation of varied habitat niches, the removal of trash, and the creation of a meadow on Kingman Island. Construction is scheduled for Fall of 2005. US Navy completed reconstruction of the pedestrian bridges in August 2001. Funding for this project is cost shared by USACE, DC and USEPA.

River Fringe Wetlands (2)

The goal of this project was to restore 16 acres of tidal wetlands along the shores of the Anacostia River adjacent to Kingman Island. As with the Kingman Lake wetlands, these wetlands will increase the number of beneficial plants and fish in the river and will improve water quality of the Anacostia River. Construction was completed in the Fall of 2003. Funding for this project was cost shared by the USACE and DC.

Heritage Island Wetlands (1)



This project will create an additional 6 acres of emergent wetlands in Kingman Lake adjacent to the RFK parking lot. These wetlands will complement the existing Kingman Lake wetlands and provide additional habitat and water quality treatment. An additional goal of this project is to create a deeper tidal channel that will allow for canoe and fish passage though the lake at low tide. This project will be cost shared by USACE and DC.

Fort Dupont Stormwater Retrofits (6)

The goal of this project is to restore the flow conditions of the Fort Dupont stream. Restoration efforts include managing flashy stormwater flows in the headwaters the stream and reducing sediment loads to the Anacostia River. DC DOH is working with NPS to retrofit 2 parking lots and segments of streets adjacent to the park. Funding for this project is provided by DC DOH.

Fort Chaplin Stream Restoration (7)

The goal of this project is to completely restore the Fort Chaplin tributary by stabilizing the stream banks and reducing amount of sediment entering the stream and the Anacostia. This project is also examining the possibility of reforming the stream to better accommodate stormwater flows.

Lower Anacostia Park Enhancements/ Pope Branch Restoration (8)

The goal of this project is to restore habitat and improve water quality in lower Anacostia Park. Restoration efforts will include planting of native trees, restoring tidal and non-tidal wetlands, and opening a portion of Pope Branch that is currently piped under the Park. The USACE is responsible for final restoration designs and implementation. Funding for this project is cost shared by the USACE and DC. DC is working with WASA to bring additional funds for a sewer line replacement next to upper Pope Branch Preliminary designs are finished and construction is anticipated in 2006.

Hickey Run Restoration (10 & 11)

The objective of this project is to improve water quality and habitat conditions of Hickey Run, much of which runs through The US National Arboretum. Improvements include installation of a stormwater management facility to filter pollutants such as oil and grease, trash traps to capture floatables, in-stream restoration to rebuild channelized portions of the stream as well as community and business outreach in the high urbanized upper reach of the stream in order to reduce pollutant loading. Partners on this project include US National Arboretum, the US Fish and Wildlife Service, DC, and the USEPA, Chesapeake Bay Program.

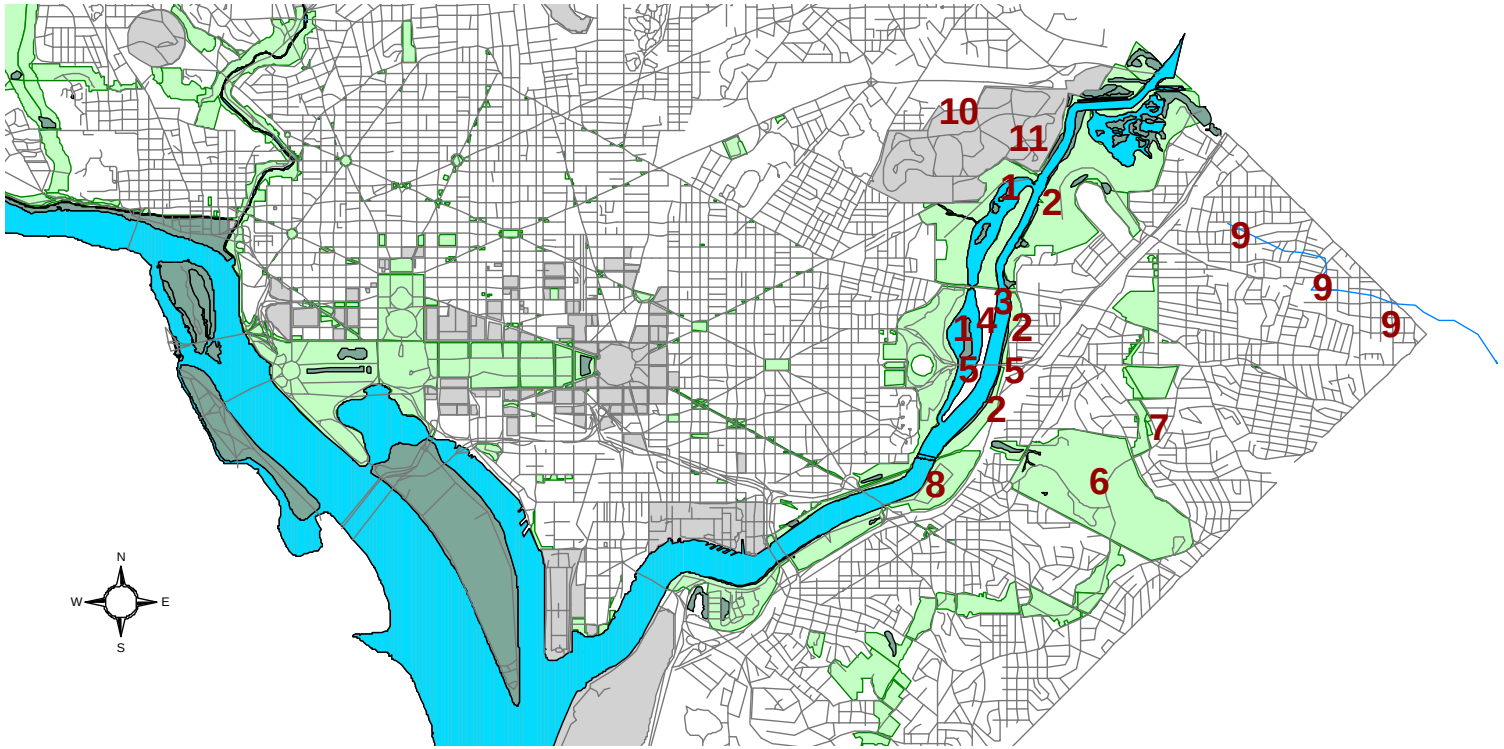
Watts Branch Restoration (9)

The goal of this project is to restore the in-stream habitat and improve the water quality of Watts Branch. Restoration will be achieved through reconstructing stream sections to better accommodate stormwater flows and addressing source control of runoff through implementation of Low Impact Development projects. Phase I was completed by NRCS in August 2001, funded by EPA. The US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) completed a thorough assessment of the stream and is currently beginning designs for the stream restoration. Costs for the project will be shared among DC DOH, USFWS, and MS4 funding.

RFK (5) Stormwater retrofits

The goal of this project is to filter pollutants and decrease peak storm water flow draining the Stadium and its surrounding neighborhood, which then discharge into the Anacostia River. The two outfalls are located along the RFK Stadium parking lot within the River Terrace community. The USACE recently completed a feasibility study to determine different best management practice (BMP) design options. The DCDOH is working with the DC Sports & Entertainment Commission to install these BMPs in 2003. Funding for these projects is cost shared by USACE and USEPA.

Anacostia Watershed Restoration Project Sites



1. **Kingman Lake Wetlands (USACE/DC)**
2. **River Fringe Wetland (USACE/DC)**
3. **Kingman Island (USACE/DC)**
4. **Bridge Construction (USN/DC)**
5. **RFK Stormwater Retrofit (USACE/DC)**
6. **Fort Dupont Stream Restoration (USGS/NPS/DC)**
7. **Fort Chaplin Restoration (USACE/DC)**
8. **Pope Branch (USACE/NPS/DC)**
9. **Watts Branch (NRCS/USFWS/DC)**
10. **Hickey Run BMP (USDA/DC)**
11. **Hickey Run Stream Restoration (USFWS/DC/USDA)**

0.5 0 0.5 Miles

Prepared by: Caroline Molivadas
DC Department of Health
Data Source: USEPA Office of Water, National Park Service,
National Capital Park & Planning Commision,
ADC Map Metro Washington DC,
DC Environmental Health Administration GIS

Restoration.apr 08-12-02

US Army Corp of Engineers (USACE)
Government of the District of Columbia (DC)
United States Navy (USN)
National Park Service (NPS)
Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS)
US Department of Agriculture (USDA)
US Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS)